

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA) has completed a program of historical research, archaeological excavations and laboratory analysis for state-owned lands on Block 1184 of the Christina Gateway project, located in Wilmington, Delaware. This study was sponsored by the Christina Gateway Corporation, in compliance with the Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Although all of Block 1184 south of Spring Alley was included in the Christina Gateway Redevelopment Project, the archaeological investigations for the present study were limited to state-owned lands that had been acquired with Federal funds.

A previous archaeological survey undertaken by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for the Wilmington Boulevard Project identified significant resources on Lots 58A, 58B and 58C of Block 1184 (Cunningham et al. 1984). Test excavations in these lots identified buried stone foundations and eighteenth-century artifact deposits that appeared to be associated with the Old Swedes Church Parsonage. Archaeological features, mostly privies, in other areas of the block were identified and mapped during the DelDOT survey. Within the area of LBA's interest were two looted privies mapped at the rear of Lots 3 and 4. These lots were not tested during the DelDOT survey, apparently because the privies had been looted and because the front of the lots had been disturbed by demolition of the structures.

Block 1184 is located in the downtown area of Wilmington and is bounded by Second, Third, French and Walnut Streets (Figure 1). The block had been occupied historically from the beginning of the eighteenth century and had supported mixed residential, commercial and industrial uses during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The present study focused on two areas of the block: (i) Lots 58A, 58B and 58C, located at the corner of Spring Alley and Walnut Street, and (ii) Lots 3 and 4, located along Second Street. At the time of the field investigations, the study areas within the block consisted of open, urban land. Lots 58A, 58B and 58C were included in this study because the previous cultural resource survey undertaken by DelDOT had identified eighteenth-century refuse deposits in sealed, stratigraphic context. The lots along Second Street were selected because of possible association with the William Hare Pottery, an industry that operated during the mid-nineteenth century.

Contractually, the program was carried out in two discrete phases of work. The first phase involved (i) historical research oriented toward description of the lot partitioning, land uses, and occupational histories for the area of concern, (ii) archaeological excavations, (iii) preliminary artifact processing, and (iv) preparation of a research design for data analysis and interpretation. Archaeological fieldwork was conducted during the period September 3-20, 1986. The historical research was conducted in two phases, the first of which was conducted concurrently with the archaeological excavations. The results of the first phase of work were summarized in an interim project report (Louis Berger & Associates 1986a).

The excavated material included well-preserved kitchen refuse deposits that was sealed within a cellar defined by two partially preserved masonry walls. The surviving walls are believed to be the remains of the first parsonage built by the Old Swedes Church congregation in 1701. The archaeological assemblage from the cellar of that structure includes ceramics, bottle glass, architectural artifacts, dietary material, and other items such as pipes, gunflints, buckles, etc. The deposit is believed to represent material that had accumulated in the cellar of the old parsonage or which had been discarded when the structure was demolished in 1768.

The site is significant primarily because of its association with Old Swedes Church and because it represents a period of Wilmington's history from which there is very little surviving

archaeological information. Although the Second Street area had been severely disturbed, some ceramics and kiln furniture associated with the William Hare Pottery, which operated ca. 1838-1889, was recovered. This element of the collection is important because it provides information concerning one of Wilmington's early industries. Also, prehistoric materials were unexpectedly recovered from a variety of contexts throughout Block 1184, providing information regarding the aboriginal occupation of the Wilmington area.

The second phase of the historical research was conducted in July 1987 and focused on the occupants of the Parsonage Lot during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and the nature of their economic support. Archaeological analysis and interpretation was carried out according to a research design that focused on consumer behavior. Consumer behavior is an issue of widespread interest in the social sciences, and it overlaps to some extent a number of the information needs articulated in the City's archaeological resource management plan.

As educated gentlemen and members of the clergy, the eighteenth-century pastors would have been held in high esteem within their community. Despite their elevated social position, this high status was not accompanied by a high level of compensation. Indeed, the priesthood is often cited as an example of a profession of high social standing but relatively modest recompense. The results of this study indicate that the eighteenth-century pastors received an annual salary as well as the use of the parsonage, and that they were able to supplement their income by performance of special services and by ministering to other congregations. Unlike their counterparts in Sweden, the pastors of Old Swedes Church probably did not receive payment in the form of foodstuffs to any significant extent.

Despite chronic complaints of insufficient remuneration, the pastors' standard of living was sufficient to permit the acquisition of expensive imported ceramics. Analysis of the dietary remains suggested a high degree of self-sufficiency with regard to basic subsistence needs. Evidence was recovered that a variety of animals were raised and butchered on site. Composition of the diet appeared to reflect ethnic Scandinavian preferences.

The body of this report is organized into seven chapters. The following chapter (Chapter II) presents the research design, including a detailed discussion of research issues that provide the context for interpretation of the site. The relevance of this study to the information needs outlined in the City's archaeological resource management plan is also discussed, together with a summary of the project methodology. The historical research, field excavations, artifact analysis, and dietary analysis are separately presented in Chapters III, IV, V and VI. The final chapter provides a summary of the research findings as well as an evaluation of the research design and suggestions for future research within the City of Wilmington.

The report is accompanied by a number of technical appendices that provide supporting documentation. These include the qualifications of the supervisory staff, the scope of work and contract proposal, a chain of title for the Parsonage Lot, and a number of catalog listings of the archaeological collections.

The collections have been prepared for permanent storage at the Island Field Museum. Original field records and a complete set of artifact catalog listings have been prepared for storage with the collection.